

URBAN DISTRICT OF FLEET

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for 1964





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2920737x>

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Coutts Milne, M. B., Ch. B., D. P. H., D. T. M. & H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

F. E. Smale, M. R. S. H., M. A. P. H. I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

P. R. Johns, M. A. P. H. I.
(appointed August, 1964)

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1964

Area: 3,694 acres

Population: 16,580 (estimated mid-year, 1964) - (Census 1961 - 13,672)

Number of inhabited houses: 5019

Sum represented by penny rate: £2,444 (estimated 1. 4. 64)

Rateable Value: £595,408 (31. 12. 64)

General Rate: 9/10d. in the £

Birth Rate: 27.02 (crude): 21.88 (standardised)

Death Rate: 9.77 (crude): 11.92 (standardised)

Comparability factors: Births - 0.81 Deaths - 1.22

Infantile death rate per 1,000 births: 29.0

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Fleet Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report for the year 1964, prepared according to the directions of the Minister of Health.

Points of note in the vital statistical figures are an increase in the population of over 7 per cent, with an increase, as compared with the previous year, in both the death rate and infant mortality rate. The incidence of infectious diseases apart from measles was low and no case of diphtheria nor of poliomyelitis was reported.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population for 1964 is 16,580 showing an increase of 1,200 over the estimate for the previous year. This is an increase of 27 per cent since the 1961 census; of the increase, only 286 is contributed by the excess of births over deaths. This steady increase in the population has resulted in an ever increasing load being thrown on the sewerage system and disposal works and efforts to put a temporary brake on residential development to allow time for the works to be enlarged have so far not been successful.

The birth rate of 21.88 per 1,000 of the population is lower than that for the previous year but is still well above the national rate of 18.4. Of the 448 births recorded, 120 were registered in Fleet (which has no maternity hospital) the other births having taken place in maternity hospitals outside the district.

The outstanding medical event of the year was the typhoid epidemic in Aberdeen in May with more than 400 cases, traced to a contaminated 6lb. tin of Argentine corned beef. This can contaminated not only the implements and the personnel in the shop but the other cold meats on the counter. Extremely puzzling was the extent and rapidity of the spread of the disease, as great as in a water borne epidemic and many times greater than in any previous corned beef outbreak. Until this outbreak it had been generally accepted that canned foods were safe until they had left the can and that when the consumer contracted typhoid it was most probably due to the infection being introduced by a carrier who handled the food after the can was opened. However, the Departmental Committee of Inquiry into the epidemic state that they believe that canned meat produced under wholly suitable and satisfactory conditions is among the safest of foods available for human consumption. The Committee in their report also stress the need for guidance to staff in food premises on the hygienic handling of all cold meats.

Causes of Deaths.

The commonest causes of death were, as usual, diseases of the circulatory system, followed by cancers and by vascular lesions of the nervous system. Of the 19 cancer deaths in men, 8 were due to lung cancer. Lung cancer continues to be a major cause of death of men in the second half of life. The Government decision to ban cigarette advertising as from 1st August on T. V. is to be welcomed although whether this will affect cigarette smoking to any marked degree remains to be seen. Certainly the increase in the price of cigarettes has not had the significant impact. Pricing up cigarettes may prove effective in deterring young persons from taking up smoking but hardly influences the habits of established smokers. The thing to do is to try and change people's attitudes to smoking. It is interesting to note that the major tobacco companies' annual reports now contain a paragraph on smoking and health recognising that "opponents of smoking have not relaxed their activities" particularly in North America and some countries in Europe. They fear that this may set a precedent for other governments in countries where their competitive position could be damaged. At least one company report gives the advice that "moderation in smoking is not only good sense, it also increases enjoyment."

Mortality from bronchitis is recognised to be much higher amongst men than amongst women, but curiously enough no deaths from this cause were recorded in Fleet in the year under review, as compared with 10 deaths in 1963. Bronchitis in this country accounts for nearly 6 per cent of all deaths and is the third most common cause of death in men over 30. The Ministry of Health, early this year sent to all medical practitioners a booklet on chronic bronchitis dealing with the preventive aspects of care of the patient with chronic bronchitis. Research has shown that the most important environmental factors in causation are cigarette smoking and atmospheric pollution. We are fortunate in living in an area where air pollution is not a problem but we need to be reminded that cigarette smoking is now generally acknowledged to be a major factor in chronic bronchitis and that there is little doubt that stopping cigarette smoking would lead to a great fall in bronchitis mortality.

Infant Mortality.

There were nearly twice the number of deaths of infants, all in hospital and under one year of age, in the year under review, compared with the previous year. Of the 13 deaths, 10 occurred during the first 4 weeks of life, almost all due to prematurity, the other 3 deaths occurred between 2 and 5 months after birth. However a study of the perinatal mortality rate - the term used to describe the combination of still births with deaths occurring during the first week of life and being a measure of the birth loss due to circumstances before and during pregnancy and events during labour and delivery - since 1960 is of interest.

Year	No. of Stillbirths	No. of infant deaths	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1960	6	3	25.45
1961	8	6	36.36
1962	5	2	14.37
1963	6	7	20.25
1964	6	13	28.63

The national perinatal mortality rate for 1963 was 29. 3

As in previous years, the routine work of protecting young children against the preventable diseases of smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis continued to be carried out and thanks are due to the private medical practitioners for their help in this connection.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and help, to Mr. Collier, Clerk of the Council, to Mr. Smale, Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Johns, Additional Public Health Inspector and Mrs. Woodford, and later in the year Mrs. Newing, for their ready assistance, enabling me to carry out my duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COUTTS MILNE

Medical Officer of Health

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:	M.	F.	Total
Number	229	219	448
Rate per 1,000 population			27.02
Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births)			2.01
Stillbirths:			
Number	1	5	6
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			13.2
Total live and stillbirths	230	224	454
Infant deaths (deaths under one year)	9	4	13
Infant Mortality Rates:			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			29.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			29.6
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)			22.32
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (death under one week per 1,000 total live births)			15.62
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)			28.63

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

M. F. Total

Number of deaths	...	...	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths				0.06

Deaths:

Deaths (all causes)	...	...	85	77	162
Death rate per 1,000 population					9.77

Comparative Rates

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1963	22.34	9.22	17.60
1964	21.88	11.92	29.0
England & Wales (1964)	18.4	11.3	20.0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1964

			M.	F.
Cancer - stomach	...	...	3	-
Cancer - lung, bronchus	...	...	8	-
Cancer - breast	...	...	-	3
Cancer - uterus	...	...	-	2
Cancer - other	...	...	8	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	-	-
Diabetes	...	...	2	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	11	10
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	22	16
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	3
Other heart disease	...	...	8	8
Other circulatory disease	...	...	3	4
Influenza	...	...	-	-
Pneumonia	...	...	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	-

			M.	F.
Congenital malformations	...	...	3	-
Pregnancy, child birth, abortion	...	...	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	8	13
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	-
All other accidents	...	...	2	3
Suicide	...	...	1	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Staff:

District Midwife	Miss S. F. B. Hicks,) 29 Kings Road,) Fleet.) Tel: Fleet 1178)	Both attached to the Group Practice of Drs. Tilly, Robinson and Winchurch.
District Nurse:	Miss R. M. Phillips,) 34 Connaught Road,) Fleet.) Tel: Fleet 365)	
District Nurse/Midwife:	Miss M. E. Harris,) 29 Greenways,) Court Moor,) Fleet.) Tel: Fleet 1740)	Both attached to the Group Practice of Drs. Dobbin, Mathewson, Crawshaw and Poyntz-Wright.
Health Visitors: (Fleet) (Ward)	Mrs. E. A. Hill,) 79 Kings Road,) Fleet.) Tel: Fleet 1298)	
(Crookham) (Ward)	Mrs. Z. E. M. Collyer, 61 Ferndale Road, Ch. Crookham. Tel: Fleet 2655	

There is also a home-help service in operation and this is administered by a County Council organiser with headquarters at Basingstoke and an office in Fleet. I am indebted to the Divisional Organiser, Miss M. E. Reed for the following information:-

"The number of new cases assisted in the Fleet Urban District during the year 1964 was 81, as follows:-

Maternity : 38; emergency sickness: 11; post hospital: 6;
chronic : 2; aged, sick and infirm: 24.

There were 17 helpers on the register at the end of the year,
five more than at the beginning of the year."

This area for general hospital purposes, comes under the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

The Fleet Hospital contains 33 beds - (9 male, 14 female, 6 children's and 4 private wards) and provides general medical and surgical treatment. There is a separate children's ward. There is no resident Medical Officer. There is a consultant surgical and medical staff in addition to the Doctors in practice in the area, who attend at the hospital.

Cases of infectious diseases are treated at Northfield Hospital, Aldershot. The ambulance service provides for removal of patients to hospital through the local depots at Aldershot and Farnborough.

The County Council is responsible for School Medical Services, Mental Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, the care of premature infants and illegitimate children and the Tuberculosis service(prevention, care and after care only).

The special clinic for Venereal Diseases is held at the General Hospital, Aldershot, and is under the jurisdiction of the Regional Hospital Board, as is the treatment part of the Tuberculosis service.

Laboratory Facilities:

The Public Health Laboratory Service is at the Public Health Laboratory Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester (Telephone 3807), and the Director is Dr. M. H. Hughes. All types of bacteriological examinations are carried out there.

Chemical examinations of water, foods etc., are carried out by the City Analyst of Portsmouth, by arrangement with Portsmouth City Council.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Clinics are held at the Schools as required.

Special Clinics:

Women

Monday, 10. 00 a. m. - 12. 30 p. m.
and Wednesday, 2. 00 p. m. - 4. 00 p. m.
at Aldershot General Hospital,
St. Georges Road, Aldershot.

Men

Wednesday 5. 00 p. m. - 7. 00 p. m.
at Aldershot General Hospital,
St. Georges Road, Aldershot.

Chest Clinics:

At Northfield Hospital, Redan Road,
Aldershot, held every Monday -
9. 15 a. m. Old Patients, 11. 00 a. m.
New Patients, second Monday every
month - Special Bronchitic Clinic.

Chest Clinics:	One Monday every month - B. C. G. session. One Monday every month - Post B. C. G. session. Held every Tuesday - 1. 30 p. m. to 3. 00 p. m. Old and new contacts. Old patients. Urgent new patients. Held every Thursday - 9. 15 a. m. Old patients and urgent new patients. 3. 00 p. m. Old patients. Held on first and third Wednesday every month at Fleet Hospital, old and new patients.
Child Welfare: Fleet (Church Hall)	Every Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon at Church Hall, Albert Street, Fleet.
Fleet (Heatherlands)	Every 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons in each month at Heatherlands Evangelical Church, 77 Aldershot Road, Fleet.
Crookham	Every Monday afternoon and every Friday morning at The War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Crookham.
Outside the district but serving the area, School Clinics are held as follows:-	
School Eye Clinic at Aldershot General Hospital	By appointment
Audiology Clinic at School Clinic, St. Georges Road East, Aldershot.	By appointment
Speech Clinic at School Clinic, St. Georges Road East, Aldershot.	By appointment
Child Guidance Clinic, Manor Park House, Health Clinic, Aldershot.	By appointment

Orthopaedic Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board, although in Aldershot, some Clinics are held at the County Council School Clinic, St. Georges Road East, Aldershot.

Dental treatment is available for children of school age, pre-school children and expectant and nursing mothers. At present this is provided in a mobile clinic by appointment only.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Vaccination:

Diphtheria and whooping cough vaccination prophylaxis for infants and school children is done by the Local Authority for the County Council and it is a free service. Parents may elect to have their children done privately by their own doctor. Children under school age can still be immunised at the weekly child welfare clinic.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Infectious Diseases:

General.

In England and Wales, the low incidence of diphtheria and poliomyelitis continued in 1964. The number of notifications of whooping cough, although not quite so high as in 1963, were still much above the number recorded in 1962. Typhoid fever cases showed a decrease compared with the previous year, when this country was involved in the Zermatt epidemic.

Of the 95 measles cases, some 36 were notified in January 1964 whilst the rest were notified during the last week in December, a prelude to the great number of cases which occurred early in 1965.

Comparative Tables

Disease	1963	1964
Scarlet Fever	2	6
Pneumonia	5	3
Measles	562	95
Whooping Cough	26	11
Erysipelas	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1
Dysentery	1	-
Meningococcal		
Meningitis	-	1

Immunisation and Vaccination Procedures:

The immunisation of children against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and of their vaccination against poliomyelitis and smallpox continued to be a major concern of the Health Department. It needs to be remembered that the absence of serious infectious diseases should not be allowed to lull us into an attitude of complacency and there is still need to raise the rates of immunisation as near to 100 per cent as possible. The following antigens are now kept in stock.

1. Triple Antigen for primary immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.
2. Alum Precipitated Diphtheria Toxoid for primary or re-inforcing doses.
3. Combined Diphtheria/ Tetanus Alum Precipitated Toxoid for immunising children to whom the administration of whooping cough vaccine is considered unnecessary or undesirable.

The following table shows the number immunised during the year.

Table (a)

Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation and who received re-inforcing injections.

Date of Birth	Diphtheria only		Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough		Diphtheria/ Tetanus		Triple		Whooping Cough only	
	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.
1964	-	-	-	-	-	-	215	-	-	-
1963	-	-	-	-	1	-	194	19	-	-
1962	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	24	-	-
1961	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
1960	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	12	-	-
1955/1959	6	103	-	-	-	71	1	136	-	-
1950/1954	-	32	-	-	-	8	-	27	-	-
TOTALS	6	135	-	-	3	80	422	220	-	-

The majority of the injections were given by private practitioners.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination:

For poliomyelitis vaccination, the vaccine of choice is the sabin type oral vaccine which has proved both safe and effective. Many countries have reported marked reduction of the incidence of poliomyelitis following the use of the oral vaccine. In 1964, there were only 39 cases of acute poliomyelitis in England and Wales, the lowest number for many years and there seems little doubt that the immunisation campaign which was begun in 1956 played a major part in bringing this about.

The following table shows the number of cards received of persons vaccinated in the district during 1964.

SALK VACCINE			ORAL VACCINE		
1st and 2nd injections	Re-inforcing doses		3 doses	Re-inforcing doses after	
	3rd injection	4th injection		2 salk	3 salk or 3 oral or 2 salk and 2 oral
31	1	3	432	1	-

Vaccination:

It will be noted that the number of children vaccinated under the age of one year is very much less than in previous years. This figure, however, is not comparable with previous years as advice issued by the Ministry of Health during the latter part of 1962 recommended that children should preferably be vaccinated during their second year rather than at the age of 4 to 5 months.

The following table gives details of the age groups vaccinated.

Age at which vaccinated	Primary Vaccination	Re-vaccinations
Under 1 year	10	-
1 year	235	-
2-4 years	16	7
5-14 years	1	17
15 and over	14	99
TOTALS	276	123

Tuberculosis:

No new case was notified; nor were there any deaths from tuberculosis.

Venereal Diseases:

No cases of venereal diseases were specially brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Infestation:

No cases of nits or scabies were reported to the Department.

Disinfection:

No houses were disinfected after notifiable diseases or on request.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Fleet Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1964 and my eighteenth since my appointment in 1947.

In the year under review, the essential environmental hygiene services were maintained but not without difficulty, until the appointment of an additional Inspector in August, eased matters. It was possible to maintain the routine inspection work and also to complete a new housing survey, the first since 1954. Details of this survey will be found in a later paragraph. It was also possible to initiate an Improvement Area Survey under the Housing Act 1964 and the results of this will come to hand in 1965. Inspection work in connection with the new Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 went on as expeditiously as possible whilst the Aberdeen outbreak of typhoid fever had its repercussions all over the country, necessitating many inspections of food premises trying to trace tins of corned beef with the appropriate markings.

The sewerage problem was still unresolved at the end of the year despite the Council's long and continued efforts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The whole of the water supply for the area is provided by the Mid-Wessex Water Company, and I am indebted to the Chief Engineer of the Company for the following report:-

- " 1. Water was supplied to the whole urban district by the Mid-Wessex Water Company from wells in the chalk at their works at Greywell, Itchel and Lasham.

The supply was continuously laid on under pressure and was satisfactory as to quantity and quality. The water was softened at the source before distribution so as to comply with the statutory limitation of hardness of 12° Clark and chlorination is applied at all sources.

2. Chemical and bacteriological examination of the raw and treated waters were regularly and frequently made by the Company's resident chemists and bacteriologists in their laboratory and independent examinations were also made by an independent laboratory. All samples were satisfactory. The fluoride content of the supply is within the range 0.1 to 0.2 P. P. M.
3. The waters do not have any plumbago-solvent action.
4. No action was required by the Company in respect of any form of contamination.

5. The approximate number of connections in the District at the end of 1964 was 6,333. No information is available as to the number of standpipes."

Water Sampling

(a) Public Main Supply

Four samples of the Mid-Wessex Water Company's main supply were taken from sources in different parts of the district and all were reported satisfactory, bacteriologically. The samples were not submitted for full chemical analysis and the hardness figures were 10.8 degrees (Clark's scale), 10.7, 10.5 and 10.8

In addition a complaint about the condition of the supply to a local hall was investigated and samples taken for chemical and bacteriological examination but both were reported satisfactory and no further action was necessary.

(b) Public Swimming Pool

There is one open-air privately-owned swimming pool in the district and the water (a main supply) is treated by filtration, aeration and chlorination. Chemical testing for chlorine content carried out as a routine measure provides a reasonable check on the bacterial quality of the water.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

I am indebted to your Surveyor Mr. T. H. Hough, M. I. Mun. E., for the following report:-

Continued rapid development in Fleet has resulted in difficulties being experienced in treating sewage at the disposal works and in certain lengths of sewers becoming surcharged. In October, 1964, the Local Planning Authority, at the urgent request of the Council, decided that all new applications for residential development should be refused pending the completion of the extensions and improvements of the sewage disposal works.

The Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. John Taylor and Sons, have prepared a scheme for additions and improvements to the disposal works to cater for a population of 28,000 at an estimated cost of £350,600. The scheme has been approved by the Council and application has been made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for loan consent.

In order to improve the access to the sewage disposal works in readiness for the extension scheme, and to improve the biological filters and final effluent, a contract has been awarded to Messrs. Bridgwater Brothers (Public Works Contractors) Limited, in the sum of £43,494.

The work consists of:-

- (a) Providing a reinforced concrete access road with some re-alignment from Minley Road to the Works.

- (b) Modifications to the 8 filter beds at low level to increase the depth to 6' 6", together with replacing the filter media in the four oldest beds.
- (c) Construction of an irrigation area to assist in the final treatment of the effluent from humus tanks.

Work is expected to commence on this Contract at an early date.

The Scheme for improving the soil drainage system of the Western Area is virtually completed, the only outstanding work being the installation of new pumps at Hitches Lane Pumping Station, together with a stand-by generating plant, which is in progress.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have reported on the necessary measures to improve the soil drainage of the Central and Eastern Areas comprising duplication of sewers where necessary, together with the construction of a new pumping station near Fleet Railway Station, which would cater for the Central Area and the surplus flows to the Avondale Road Pumping Station. Included in this scheme is a new pumping main from the Cove Road Ejector Station to the disposal works to obviate the difficulties experienced at present of the ejector station discharging into the rising main from the Avondale Road Pumping Station to the disposal works.

This report has been accepted by the Council and the Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare the necessary details. The part of the scheme concerned with providing the new rising main from the Cove Road Ejector Station is being prepared in advance of the main proposals and a price is being negotiated with the Contractor at present working on the Western Area improvements in order to carry out the work as a matter of urgency to relieve the pumping main from the Avondale Road Pumping Station.

Public Cleansing

Weekly collections of refuse have been maintained throughout the District and the refuse is being disposed of by controlled tipping at Calthorpe Park.

The first phase of developing the refuse tip as playing fields has been completed and provides facilities for a football pitch, running track and 6 tennis courts.

Continued building development will necessitate a new refuse vehicle being purchased in the near future. This will be a continuous loading type vehicle to replace the only remaining side-loader.

Improvement Grants

There was a decrease of almost a 100% in the number of "discretionary" grant applications but only a decrease of one in the "Standard" applications as shown in the table.

Nearly all the applications for discretionary grant schemes were for typical alterations and extensions to rear outbuildings to form bathrooms, with the provision of hot water supplies and other modern amenities whilst the standard grant applications were for the provision of one or more of the five standard amenities or for the converting of a third bedroom to a bathroom.

The Housing Act 1964 gave Local Authorities power to deal with areas of houses on a compulsory basis whilst leaving the voluntary method still open to owner/occupiers. A pilot survey will be made in 1965 to determine whether any areas in the district can be dealt with by Improvement Area procedure.

Further provisions to make the grants more attractive to landlords were contained in the Housing Act 1964 and it remains to be seen whether these new measures meet with the success they deserve.

Type of Grant	Applications received	No. of Premises	No. Approved (Premises)	No. Refused
Discretionary	10	10	10	-
Standard	3	3	3	-
Totals	13	13	13	-

Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

Housing Act, 1957

Two dwelling houses were represented under this Act during the year, one of which was vacated and demolished by the end of the year.

Five dwellings in the Council's approved proposals were demolished, whilst two dwellings were voluntarily demolished.

During the latter part of the year a survey of sub-standard housing was carried out and this revealed that some 21 dwellings would need to be dealt with, the majority by demolition.

The whole question of action and re-housing of the occupiers will be considered early in 1965.

Housing Building Progress

Total number of post-war houses erected in the district are:-

Council Houses - 401; Private Enterprise - 1,861;
making a total of 2,262.

I am indebted to your Housing Officer (Mr. M. G. Atkins) for the following report:-

"Whilst the Council has proceeded to draw up plans for future development of its housing sites and subsequent re-housing of tenants from the older Council houses it was not possible to commence building during the year owing to the sewage problem.

The Council's policy of transferring existing tenants to smaller accommodation more suitable to means, size of family etc. was maintained and thirteen such transfers were effected. It was planned to demolish the five houses in Elvetham Road but owing to the restriction on building already referred to it has been found necessary to carry out certain repairs and improvements including the provision of a hot water system in order that they could be re-let. The older houses in Kenilworth Road and Westover Road were also provided with a hot water system where one did not already exist.

Other lettings during the year were as follows:-

General Housing - new tenancies	8
General Housing - new tenancies (N. G. T. E.)	4
Old People's Bungalows - new tenancies	2
Campbell Close - new tenancies	2

A fresh problem has arisen during the year as regards accommodation for tenants' cars and wherever possible the Council have given permission for them to be kept in the tenants' gardens. There are ten on the waiting list for hard standings on the Ryelaw housing estate.

During the year 12 visits were made by the Hampshire County Council Welfare Officers and myself to investigate fresh applications for tenancies of Campbell Close and there is now a waiting list of approved applicants for this type of accommodation totalling eleven.

At the close of the year there were 28 applicants on the waiting list for old persons bungalows. In addition to this the waiting list for general housing totalled 153, of which 25 were classed as "Priority".

Caravans

The one permanent site at Crookham, licensed for a total of 140 caravans, was maintained in a very satisfactory condition during the year. Site works on the last extension continued to progress steadily. The Council's policy regarding individual sites remains unchanged.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council is a constituent member, together with other local Authorities in the North East of the County, of the North Hants Pest Control Committee which has met quarterly since 1945 to discuss problems, hear technical lectures and see films on rodent and other pest problems. Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the War Department attend. Locally, a free service continued to be given to both business and private premises.

A summary of the work carried out by the Rodent Operator is given below.

	Type of Property				Total
	L. A.	Dwelling-houses	Agricultural	Business Premises	
1. No of premises inspected	23	302	14	236	575
2. No. of premises found to be infested by rats	22	175	11	71	279
3. No. of premises found to be infested by mice	-	6	-	2	8
4. No. of inspected premises treated by L. A.	22	181	11	73	287
5. No. of block control schemes carried out	.....	30			

Pest Destruction

The usual routine spraying of Fleet Pond by the Military Medical Authorities was not done in 1964 but locally the Department treated ditches and road gullies in the vicinity of the pond to prevent mosquito breeding.

Dwelling houses were treated for the following pests:-

Cockroaches - 2 Flies - 3 : whilst advice on the eradication of other pests was given.

During the summer months complaints were received alleging fly nuisance originating at the Council's refuse tip at Calthorpe Park. Although breeding was never confirmed at the tip it was thought flies were brought to the tip in the refuse vehicles and the drivers were instructed to carry out regular spraying of the vehicles with a suitable insecticide. The tip was sprayed regularly, sometimes as often as daily. and our efforts showed some success in the late summer.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

This new statute, with certain exceptions, came into force on the 1st August, 1964 and placed on occupiers of offices and shops the necessity to register their premises with the Local Authority before 31st July, 1964. With the help of the local Chamber of Trade, an almost 100% registration was effected within a month after the closing date and inspection work started in the autumn. By the end of the year about a third of the premises had received the initial inspection. It will take some months or even years before all the provisions of the Act are fully complied with, meantime inspection work continues. But for the appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector, no work under the Act would have been possible.

The County Council remain responsible through their Weights and Measures Department for the closing provisions of the Shops Acts.

DRAINAGE

A further five dwelling houses on cesspool drainage were connected to the public sewers during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

There are two producers of milk within the Urban District, and nineteen retailers of bottled milk - (fifteen from shops only).

36 inspections of dairies were made during the year and no statutory action was called for.

Of all the bottled milk sold in the area only a very small percentage is not heat-treated (i. e. either pasteurised or sterilised).

(b) Sampling

A total of 47 samples were taken with the following results:-

Designation	No. of samples submitted	Methylene Blue Test			Phosphatase Test	
		P.	F.	Test Void	P.	F.
Pasteurised	8	8	-	-	8	-
Tuberculin Tested (pasteurised)	39	27	-	12	35	4
Totals	47	35	-	12	43	4

Of the 47 samples of bottled milk submitted for the methylene blue test, tests on 12 samples were declared void because the permissible atmospheric shade temperature was exceeded when the samples arrived at the laboratory. The four samples failed the phosphatase test and investigations at the processing dairy concerned revealed a faulty automatic temperature control which was adjusted immediately and check samples confirmed this.

Sixteen of the samples submitted were from schools in the district, 29 were from roundsmen and 2 were from local dairies. No action was required under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 which provides for action where milk is suspected of having caused disease in human beings.

Designated Milk

The Local Authority, under delegated powers from the County Council issue dealers' licences on behalf of the latter.

At the end of 1964 the following licences were in force:-

For Pasteurised Milk : 1 Dealer's (pasteuriser's)
18 Dealer's (pre-packed Milk)

For Tuberculin Tested Milk: 1 Dealer's
8 Dealer's (pre-packed Milk)

For Sterilised Milk : 1 Dealer's (pre-packed Milk)

The one pasteurising establishment in the district is licensed by the Local Authority on behalf of the County Council.

Although the designation "Tuberculin Tested" ceased to exist after 1st October, 1964, the existing licences bearing such designation remain in force until the end of 1965, after which date the licences issued will be for pasteurised, sterilised and untreated milk.

(b) Meat and Food Inspection

The butchers in the area, except in one case, obtain all their supplies of meat from wholesalers. One butcher purchases animals at market and has them slaughtered at a licensed slaughterhouse in Farnborough. The meat is, generally, of a high standard and only relatively small amounts have to be condemned at the retail shops.

Slaughtering Facilities

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food having accepted the Council's report under Section 3 of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958, there is nothing further to add under this heading. There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the area, the two licensed before 1939 not having been re-opened.

The following articles of food were surrendered and condemned as being unfit for human food:-

Tinned Food (various) -	896 tins	Fish - $22\frac{1}{2}$ stones
Frozen food (packets) -	3,481	Tinned ham and veal - 18 lbs.
Meat offal (ox cheek) -	$36\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Chickens - 11
Meat -	179 lbs.	Rabbit - 30 lbs.

FOOD

In accordance with Circular 19/56 the following information is given regarding the inspection of food and food premises in the area:-

(i) Number of food premises, by type of business, in the district at the end of the year is as follows:-

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Number</u>
Butchers	9
Bakehouses and Confectioners	8
Cooked Meats	2
Fish (Raw)	3
Fish (Fried)	2
Greengrocery	8
Grocers (including "mixed" shops)	29
Cafes (including snack bars and hotels) ...	10
Factory and School canteens	8
Ice-cream premises	46

(ii) Number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Number</u>
Butchers	6
Ice-cream	46
Dairies	2

(iii) A total of 551 inspections of all types of food premises was carried out during the year. In 1950 the Council made byelaws under section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and no statutory action was necessary to secure compliance with them.

(iv) The small amounts of carcase beef and offal and other raw foods are disposed of in a local factory boiler fire. Other foodstuffs, including tinned foods, are disposed of on the Council refuse tip.

(v) No ice-cream is now manufactured in the district. There are 46 retail premises where only a pre-packed article is sold.

(vi) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and 1962.

The general standard of hygiene in food premises is satisfactory. Frequent routine inspection of the premises, together with propaganda during such visits, is the only way of impressing on food-handlers the need for the strictest cleanliness in personal habits so helping to prevent food poisoning and other illnesses caused by careless food-handling.

(vii) Food and Drugs Act 1955 - Section 2

During the year six complaints were received about the soundness of food and were dealt with as follows:-

- (1) A case of a nail in a piece of cheese. After investigations, it was decided to take no action.
- (2) The finding of a first aid dressing in a wrapped joint of beef led to the firm concerned being prosecuted. They were fined £5. 5s. 0d. and costs.
- (3) The contamination of a loaf of bread by some burnt substance was investigated and the manufacturer warned.
- (4) The retailer of a mouldy chocolate roll was prosecuted and fined £15 and costs.
- (5) The firm who sold a mouldy swiss roll were prosecuted and fined £5 and costs.

(6) This case related to the selling of a loaf of bread, found to be mouldy. The Bakers concerned were prosecuted and fined £50 and costs.

The prosecutions in connection with four of the cases were instituted by the Hampshire County Council but some of the investigation work was done by the Council's Chief Public Health Inspector.

Despite these cases, it is known that manufacturers do go to a great deal of trouble to try to prevent foreign bodies etc. getting into foodstuffs but it seems inevitable that, where foodstuffs are handled by human beings in some stage of their manufacture or preparation, carelessness is always possible and this may reflect ultimately on the firms concerned.

(d) Adulteration etc.

The County Council is the responsible Authority.

I am indebted to Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Sampling Officer, for the following report:

1. I beg to report that during the year ended the 31st December, 1964, 204 samples were obtained under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the area of the Fleet Urban District Council.

2. Milk Samples

187 samples of milk, including thirty of Channel Islands, were taken, nine being unsatisfactory, one due to added water and eight on account of deficiencies in fat.

The sample which contained added water was taken informally from milk received at a dairy in the area, official samples subsequently being obtained at the farm from which the milk had originated, this being situated outside the District. Checks of two consignments, each of ten churns of milk, were made on consecutive days, seventeen of the samples showing varying amounts of added water from $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 3 per cent and accounting for almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of water in the first consignment. Legal proceedings were taken against the producer in respect of four of the more seriously adulterated samples and these resulted in fines totalling £20 being imposed, together with costs of £21.

One of the samples which proved to be deficient of fat, was obtained at a cafe and the discrepancy had clearly been caused by the milk not having been mixed properly before being removed from its container, with the result that part of the fat had been removed. A further check at the cafe was satisfactory and, in the circumstances, a warning was given to the proprietor with regard to the first sample. The remaining seven samples which showed fat deficiencies did not involve offences as they were from individual churns of raw milk, included in larger consignments, the average fat content of each of which was satisfactory.

3. Miscellaneous Samples

17 samples of articles other than milk were submitted for analysis, six of these being the subject of adverse report. One concerned a sample of pork sausage meat which was slightly deficient of the amount of 65 per cent of meat normally expected in such products. The deficiency (6 per cent) was not regarded as sufficient to warrant legal action, however, and the producer was cautioned.

The remaining five unsatisfactory samples all arose from consumer complaints and, in respect of four, legal proceedings were instituted against the vendors responsible. These matters related to the following:-

Mould in a chocolate covered roll, the roll having been in stock for about two months although it's recommended shelf life was only fourteen days. The retail company responsible were fined £15 and ordered to pay costs of £10. 16s. 5d.

A loaf of bread contaminated with mould - the bakery company were fined £50 and ordered to pay £13. 10s. 3d. costs.

A swiss roll contaminated with mould - the owners of the shop concerned were fined £25, with £12. 7s. 6d. costs.

A bottle of milk alleged to contain a slug - the case was dismissed, the Court not apparently being satisfied that the slug was in the bottle when the milk had been delivered to the purchaser.

The remaining complaint related to dark coloured fragments in a loaf of bread, which analysis revealed to consist of charred dough with traces of mineral oil. The contamination was relatively slight, however, and did not appear to warrant legal action; a warning was, therefore, issued to the producer.

A further complaint was received alleging that the contents of a bottle of Lime Juice Cordial were contaminated by disinfectant. This was not borne out by analysis, however, although the product did have a fairly "strong" smell and it seemed possible that some deterioration of the flavouring used had taken place. Although the case did not call for any legal action, the retailer was advised of the result with a view to ensuring that his method of storage was satisfactory.

Proceedings were also taken with regard to a piece of first-aid dressing in a joint of meat. The proprietors of the shop at which the meat had been purchased were fined £5 and ordered to pay five guineas costs. This item is not included in the number of samples, as analysis was not required.

4. General

In addition to work in connection with the Food and Drugs Act, attention was given to the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act with regard to their application to the labelling and descriptions of food and drugs. No complaints of consequence occurred within the district although a few minor matters were brought to the notice of the persons responsible.

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION WORK

Details of the inspections carried out during the year are given in the following table:-

Premises Inspected					Number of Inspections
Re:	Water Supply	...	...	...	2
	Drainage	...	...	...	224
	Swimming Pools	...	...	...	13
	Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	65
	Noise nuisance	...	...	...	8
	Factories	...	...	...	79
	Animal Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	2
	Rivers Pollution	...	...	...	4
	Public Conveniences	...	...	...	4
	Music and Dancing Licenses	...	...	...	1
	Licensed Premises	...	...	...	1
	Refuse Disposal (Refuse Tip)	...	...	...	25
	Rodent Control	...	...	...	9
	Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	8
	Schools	...	...	...	18
	Shops	...	...	...	15
	Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	10
	Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	...	...	...	97
	Pest Infestation	...	...	...	38
	Miscellaneous sanitary visits	...	...	...	56
	Miscellaneous other visits	...	...	...	6

Meat and Food Inspection :

Butchers	...	...	...	...	75
Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	...	59
Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	36
Fishmongers and Fishfriers	...	...	...	...	55
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	28
Grocers	...	...	...	...	54
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	13
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	2
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	15
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	10
Visits re milk sampling	...	...	...	...	43
Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	161

Dwelling Houses :

Under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	23
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	36
Under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	24
Re-inspections under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	76
Re Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	20
Re-inspections - works in progress	...	...	...	...	182
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits	...	...	...	...	3

Total

1,626

Drainage

Alterations, additions and repairs	...	...	...	40
Drains stoppages cleared	...	...	...	211
Drains tests (water and smoke)	...	...	...	89

The Rodent Operator also carries out the work of unstopping drains, on request, at a charge to the occupier of 2/- per hour. This scheme is to the advantage of the occupier and is instrumental in the prevention of public health nuisances.

Complaints

Rodent Infestation	...	...	...	...	151
Drainage (obstructed drains)	...	...	...	...	221
Pest infestation (general)	...	...	...	...	36
Public Health nuisances (general)	...	...	...	...	48
					456

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961 are now given as an Appendix to the Report.

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Form of Notice	Number served	Premises	Defects
Informal: Sanitary defects	8	9	56
Statutory: Sanitary defects	-	-	-

In conclusion, I must once again express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation of their support. I also express to your Clerk and Surveyor and the staff in the Department my thanks for their continued co-operation during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. E. SMALE.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

June, 1965.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the year 1964 for the Urban District
of Fleet in the County of Hampshire

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	79	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
Totals:	68	79	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found					Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)	
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred				
			To H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)			
Want of cleanliness (S. 1.)	1	1	-	-	-	-	
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)	
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred			
			To H. M. Inspector (4)	BY H. M. Inspector (5)		
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-	
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	-	-	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	-	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)						
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-	
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-	-	-	
Totals	4	4	-	1	-	

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK Sections 133 and 134

NIL RETURN

June, 1965.

Signed J. COUTTS MILNE.
Medical Officer of Health.

